

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 24, 2004. Claim 9 has been amended in a non-narrowing manner to clarify that the link set to idle status is trained at the optimal rate. This amendment is in accord with the statement in claim 9 that other links “are trained at the optimal rate.” Claims 1-18 are presently pending. No new matter has been added. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the claims 1-8, 12, and 16-18 are allowed.

§103 Rejections

Claims 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,002,670 to Rahman et al. (hereinafter “Rahman”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,688 to Klink (hereinafter “Klink”). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Rahman in view of Klink and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,813,241 to Wang et al. (hereinafter “Wang”). The Applicant traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 9 recites a system in which “at least one link is trained at the optimal rate and set to idle status.” In contrast, in Rahman there is no training of links to operate at an optimal rate. The links operate at whatever rate they are capable and the system compensates for the differential delay of each link by using a buffer so that transmissions are combined in the correct sequence. Rahman, Col. 3, lines 1-4. Therefore, none of the links are trained at the optimal rate.

Klink and Wang do not address this deficiency of Rahman. In particular, each of the service links of Klink appears to operate independently at its own bit rate. Therefore, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a system in which “at least one link is trained at the optimal rate and set to idle status.” For at least this reason, independent claim 9, and dependent claims 10, 11, and 13-15, are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, the Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

Amendment In Response To Non-Final Office Action

Application No.: 09/751,581

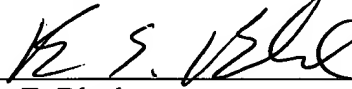
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Docket No.: 08212/000S104-US0 (NC30313US)

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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